



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
STANDARD PRACTICE

NO 7-1.21

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EFFECTIVE 7/94

APPROVED

DEPARTMENT

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

SUBJECT

CLIENT IN POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AND
OTHER WEAPONS


Rudy Lopez, Director

I. POLICY

Effective treatment cannot take place if clients are armed with weapons of any sort, such as knives, stilettos, guns, or any explosive devices. All treatment staff must take precautions to ensure that such devices are not brought into Behavioral Health Department offices.

II. PURPOSE

To establish procedures to prevent client possession of firearms/weapons in the treatment setting and to manage incidents in which clients are in possession of firearms/weapons while in the treatment setting.

III. PROCEDURES

A. INTERVENTION

1. If a client is known to have, or is reasonably suspected of having, a weapon mentioned above, the client must be asked by the primary clinical therapist or clinic supervisor to leave the premises and not return until the weapon has been discarded. If treatment is in progress when a weapon is discovered or suspected, the session will be terminated.
2. If the client refuses to comply, the clinic supervisor or designee will be notified. The supervisor/designee will take steps to ensure clinic safety (including removal of bystanders) and to notify police if client poses a threat to clinic safety.
3. To make emergency police contact run smoothly, it is important for the supervisor to be able to describe the physical plant to them and a floor plan should be available. In addition, office doors should bear room numbers for easy identification. To enable ready phone access, staff should be instructed to free up clinic phones.

B. REPORT

A report of the action taken will be made and located in the clinic's files. A copy of the Incident Report (SPM 12-2.12) will be completed by the clinic supervisor and forwarded to the Program Manager within 24 hours, showing the following information:

1. Clinic
2. Client name/chart number
3. Date/time
4. Type of weapon involved
5. Action taken
6. Expected reaction of client; any related precautions to be taken
7. Was law enforcement involved?

The Program Manager will prepare a report to the Director via the Deputy Director and a copy will be provided to the Deputy Director, Medical Services. In accordance with county policy, the clinic supervisor will contact Risk Management to provide notification of the incident and provide documentation if requested.

rearms

CROSS REFERENCE LISTING
Clients in Possession Firearms and other Weapons

12-2.11	Threats of Assault on Staff Members
12-1.10	Tarasoff - Duty to Warn Potential Victims
7-1.10	Bomb Threat Procedure
7-1.20	Evacuation of Clinic Due to Dangerous Client